

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, GT

SUBJECT: OASGA 20 - GUATEMALA FOREIGN MINISTER' S SPEECH

1. IF VENEZUELAN FONMIN CALVANI HAD NOT GIVEN SUCH A CONSTRUCTIVE AND INTELLIGENT REVIEW OF THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM (SEE SEPTTEL), SPEECH BY GUATEMALAN FONMIN ARENALES MIGHT HAVE BEEN, IN ITS WAY, HIGHLIGHT OF LENGTHY APRIL 9 OASGA SPEECH MAKING. ARENALES DIBERATELY GAVE BRIEF (THREE DOUBLED SPACE PAGES) SPEECH, NOTING THAT IN ORDER TO DEDICATE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO ACTUAL DELIBERATIONS HIS GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT CONVENIENT TO LIMIT ITSELF TO TWO BRIEF POINTS.
 2. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN GRATIFIED TO SEE THAT DELEGATIONS, DESPITE PRESS ACCOUNTS WHICH DOUBTED THE ABILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION TO SURVIVE, HAD EXPRESSED
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CLEARLY THEIR PREOCCUPATION WITH NECESSITY TO MAKE THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM WORK BETTER. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS SMALL NATIONS OF HEMISPHERE WHO PARTICULARLY NEEDED SYSTEM AS THEIR ONLY FORUM FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION. THIS ALONE WAS REASON ENOUGH FOR THE OAS TO EXIST BUT MOREOVER IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE WAS A TENDENCY TO FORGET THE MANY BENEFITS RECEIVED FROM THE VARIOUS OAS ORGANS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE CRITICISM OF THE MEMBER STATES AS CONSTRUCTIVE, BUT VERY SEVERE AND OVERLY SPARING OF PRAISE.

3. HE WENT ON TO RESTATE BRIEFLY GUATEMALA' S POSITION ON BRITISH HONDURAS, NOTING THAT HE HAD DONE SO BECAUSE OTHERS HAD RAISED THE ISSUE IN THEIR SPEECHES. HE CLOSED BY STATING THAT GUATEMALA SAW THE OAS AS A NECESSITY, AN INSTRUMENT TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS AND TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS AND DIFFERENCES. ROGERS

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